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FROM: JERICO 261
TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON
REF: 261
SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY AL-HAFI OF JERUSALEM

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On Sunday evening, August 5, Al Haj Amin Al HUSSEINI, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, held a press conference in Cairo. His remarks were devoted chiefly to accusing the Jordanian authorities and their British protectors of having conducted a reign of terror against the Palestinian Arabs since the death of King Abdallah. The Mufti denied that he had, as rumored, been in any way connected with the plot against the Jordanian monarch. In response to a reporter's question, he declared that political assassinations are not in the interest of the Arab countries, and can only have dire results.

Al Husseini made clear the purpose of his calling the press conference by opening it with the reading of a "report on British policy in the Middle East" in which he recounted at length acts of violence, pillage and torture which he claimed had been perpetrated by the Arab Legion against the Palestinians in the wake of King Abdallah's assassination. Declaring that the "massacres" had been carried out with the consent of the Amman Government, the Mufti placed the ultimate responsibility for these and the other ills of the area on British imperialism and support of the Jews. He expressed surprise at the recent Jordanian note to Egypt regarding that his activities be limited and said that this note implied that Great Britain considers the Middle East as one of its private preserves.

The Mufti in his report denied having contacts with any terrorist organization aiming at assassination of Arab personalities, adding that such a policy is in no way that of the Arab Higher Committee. He even denied having a nephew named Hussa David Al Husseini. (The Egyptian Gazette of August 7 reported that a Dr. Hussa Al Husseini, who is described as a nephew of the ex-Mufti, is one of the principal persons accused of complicity in the murder of King Abdallah.)

In response to a journalist's question as to whether he thought the death of King Abdallah would hasten a solution of the Arab problem, that Al Haj Amin Al Husseini

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into his formalized collection (according to his records). He described King Abdullah's assassination as "a sad and regrettable event".

Under further questioning by the Egyptian reporters, Al Mansour indicated that Palestine is not a part of Jordan. He pointed out that the Arab states have not recognized the union of the two banks of the Jordan. He expressed his faith in the (presumably voluntary) unity of the Arab lands but indicated that no Jordan would take place as long as foreign troops still occupied Jerusalem. He stated explicitly, as an example in Iraq. He pointed out that recent by ordering to could not be at least if the residents of Palestine were placed under American control where the Israeli army was an opponent with the Arab and other Arab states. He stated, leaving Palestine independent "in the same way that the citizens of Palestine" required a separate "in the Arab world" and the Arab world.

Other Arab have said for
Jordan, Jerusalem, Jordan

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